

Serial No.: 09/911,125

Docket No.: PHDE000244US (987.0006USU)

Remarks

Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

The indication that claims 6-8 and 12 are directed to patentable subject matter is greatly appreciated.

Claims 9-11, 14, and 15 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to an election/restriction requirement.

Claims 1-5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Amano et al.* (US 6,513,902).

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 4 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, and 7-15 remain in the application unamended. Claim 16 has been added.

**THE CLAIMS DISTINGUISH PATENTABLY AND NON-OBVIOUSLY
OVER THE PRIOR ART OF RECORD**

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 6 and intervening claim 4. As the Office Action indicates that claim 6 is directed towards allowable subject matter, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 6 have been cancelled as their limitations have been included in claim 1.

Claim 5, previously depended from claim 4. Because the limitations of claim 4 have been included in claim 1, claim 4 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 16 has been added. Claim 16 includes the limitations of claim 1 and 12. As the Office Action indicates that claim 12 is directed towards allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Applicant submit that claims 1-16 distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

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If any fees are due in connection with this application, authorization to charge deposit account 14-1270 for such fees is hereby provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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